



AUSTRALIA: Light to moderate rain (3-20 mm) swept across winter grain areas of Western Australia and the southeast (South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales), increasing topsoil moisture levels for greening wheat and barley. The moisture was especially welcomed in the northern and eastern growing areas of Western Australia, which received the heaviest rainfall of the spring thus far (10 mm or more in most areas). Seasonably mild weather in the west and southeast favored early crop development, although patchy frost likely burned back new growth. In Queensland, light showers (5 mm or less in most areas) continued in the primary winter grain areas, but more would be welcomed in upcoming weeks as crops advance through reproduction. Cooler-than-normal weather continued, however, across much of the east, limiting crop development. Dry weather favored fieldwork in sugarcane plantations along the coast. In New Zealand, a winter storm pounded central sections of South Island with heavy rain (50-100 mm or more), high winds, and localized flooding. Moderate rain (10-25 mm or more) covered agricultural districts elsewhere.